Literacy Narrative

*My literacy narrative initially, focused on writing and disregarded the other aspects of literacy which are equally important. I focused on writing because writing has always been the most challenging skill for me with regards to my literacy in Korean and English. I added a reflection on reading as I considered the relationship reading has on writing, speaking, and listening. In addition to addressing all four aspects of literacy, I removed certain parts of my literacy narrative that focused more on my father's experiences with writing rather than on my own. Finally, I compared English Composition to Korean Composition as a counterpoint to previous experiences.*

A room full of people wait in silence for the Dell 20” monitor’s blue screen to change. I look at two short #2 pencils placed on both sides of the desk as I sit in a cushioned office chair, doubting my ability to pass the test.

I stretched my back against the chair, rolled my neck back and forth, massaged my eye sockets, pressed down onto the bridge of my nose, pushed on my temples, rubbed the back of my neck and earlobes. The silence pounded on my nervous body. I waited. My attempts at relaxation only heightened my anxiousness. I had two dictionaries with me, a thesaurus that cost two dollars from the dollar store, and an old Oxford pocket dictionary that my wife gave me. These tools were my lifevest as I waded in a sea of growing anxiety. The inspector finally arrived and told me that I could only bring one of my books into the exam.

Since English is my second language, taking a test without the resources I needed was a disadvantage. Frustrated, I chose the dictionary over the thesaurus since I needed to understand the words rather than choose a better version of a word. The test started with a timer whose big, red numbers alerted students of their remaining time. I felt that time was slipping by, 60 out of 90 minutes had already passed. I wrote the paragraph summaries, developed my ideas for a response, and provided a personal experience. Five minutes before the end of the exam, I rushed to the conclusion and finished it.

Writing has always been a challenge for me; it was something I grappled with for a long time. I was never a writer, yet there was a persistent spark deep within me that burned brighter as I grew older - a desire to write. Where did it find its fuel? My father wrote. His writing was beautiful. Poetic and fluid, I let my father write for me, and I won the highest award in middle school - that haunted me. It was something glinting in the corner of my mind, a memory or feeling left behind from my Korean writing tutor. A time where I enjoyed learning how to write. A time where I learned how to write correctly and felt the excitement of learning. A time where I mastered the techniques needed to express my thoughts on paper. A time that was cut short because of low enrollment. I lost that time and found the monotony of writing pounded into my brain through routine. A daily diary entry forced out of me through my elementary, middle, and high school years.

When I tried to write, in English, the words escaped me, in my native tongue, Korean, I avoided writing. I didn’t want to practice, or I didn’t know how to practice. Practice was key, but I found it challenging to develop a coherent story. I did not focus. I would write about apples and then jump to alligators - the connection was lost.

On the other hand, I found reading much more accessible. I remember during my childhood, reading many Korean books, I especially enjoyed short stories. My mother joined a book renting program that delivered different books every month. I loved reading those books; sometimes, I wanted to read more books than once a month. The time was too long for new adventures, new stories to fill my imagination with awe. I couldn’t wait for the next books to arrive and then this too disappeared - another lost connection.

Then, in adulthood, another moment arrived where I truly enjoyed reading - the military. Since serving in the armed forces is mandatory for men in Korea, I served for about two years. The feelings of isolation were assuaged by books. I read a small Buddhist bible during my night rounds, chanting the words, listening to the sounds of prayer muffled in the darknesses, I found peace. In contrast to the strict rules of the army, this book was my sanctuary. The prayers echoed in my heart, and I realized that time passed.

As I rose in ranks, I had more free time and less work, which meant more time to read and find solace. The military department sent a set of bestseller books to each company monthly. During that year, I read the most books in my entire life. I enjoyed fiction since I was able to create the worlds in my mind - they were my movies. I enjoyed reading so much that it made me forget I was in the military, and I would dream about parts of the books. They gave me joy, peace, knowledge, and rest.

Going back to college was a turning point that placed me back on track to learn. English Composition 1 was officially my first class, where I learned how to write. My second language became my primary vehicle for learning.

Reading, writing, speaking, and listening in English. It is becoming as dear to me as Korean. The invisible switch somewhere in my brain clicked. I hear the sounds of a once foreign and strange language become my own. My voice’s timber hits different notes not familiar to my Korean upbringing, and yet I feel confident. I speak my mind, despite the fear and anxiety that tries to paralyze me. I push past the fatigue and confusion to write my thoughts on the page. I read the words of others whose voices are a part of this language, not entirely my own, but one that is becoming who I am meant to be. I pass the CAT and begin my journey as an undergraduate at City Tech, where the world is presented in English, and I form the words with my mouth, push the sounds out with my throat and come home to the echoes of my children conversing in English, my new home language.

Annotated Bibliography

*For my annotated bibliography, I wanted to ensure that any grammatical errors were rectified. I also reviewed my annotations to ensure that I met the requirements for each one of the sources as per the assignment. I also reviewed the evidence that I selected to make sure that it supported my rhetorical analysis of the sources I had selected.*

Gore, Al. "To Skeptics on Global Warming . . ." *The New York Times*, <https://www.nytimes.com/1990/04/22/opinion/to-skeptics-on-global-warming.html> Accessed 30 October, 2019.

In "To Skeptics on Global Warming...," Al Gore supports his argument that global warming is a real and severe matter by presenting the most commonly deployed questions by global warming deniers coupled with the scientific responses to provide a ‘final’ response for naysayers. His tone seriously addresses the concerns deniers continue to use in their political arguments. Gore does so, to inform the public at large that global climate change is real and, in his opinion, “the single most serious manifestation of a larger problem: the collision course between industrial civilization and the ecological system that supports life” on earth. In presenting his argument in this manner, it becomes clear, as his op-ed appears in The New York Times, that his targeted audience is the American public. These are the individuals he wants to address and heighten their awareness of the fact that politicians deny the real and dangerous impact climate change has on the livelihood of the American people. Gore presents the Bush Administration’s stance, by providing a directive given to policymakers advising them that “'a better approach is to raise the many uncertainties,” around global warming. The purpose of Gore’s argument in presenting this information is to provide commonly used questions with definitive responses, backed by the research and scientific findings surrounding the issue. One such question elicits the response that “it is irresponsible to assume that after moving in tandem with carbon dioxide for 160,000 years, temperatures will not be affected by those dramatic increases,” illustrating the direct connection between carbon dioxide emissions and temperature change. In using scientific findings, Gore provides logical reasoning as one method to convince his audience of the urgency of the issue. To add to the sense of urgency in his claim, Gore refers to global trends that have seen “unprecedented population growth and new technologies for burning fuels, clearing forests and manufacturing chemicals [that] have given humankind the ability to alter the composition of the atmosphere.” In doing so, he solidifies his argument that climate change is affected by modern industrialization in a way that it is an apparent domino effect. Gore wants skeptics, including the Bush Administration, to know that global warming is a scientifically proven reality and to encourage the public to urge lawmakers to “act now or it will be much worse than predicted.” This statement further emphasizes the impact of humanity’s abuse of the environment and the long-lasting impact it has for all species and generations to come.

Kaufman, Kenn. “Opinion: As a birder, I see the effects of climate change every day. Now, Audubon has quantified the threat.” *Los Angeles Times*, <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2019-10-10/climate-change-bird-species-threatened> Accessed 10 October 2019.

Kaufman presents his argument through the venue of the *Los Angeles Times* in order to reach a readership from both sides of the political spectrum. The rise in global temperature is particularly notable for birdwatchers due to the direct impact warmer temperatures have on the habitable ranges for specific bird species. Kaufman uses current research from the National Audubon Society where “scientists analyzed the current geographic ranges of 604 North American bird species, and modeled how those ranges would change at different levels of warming” to strengthen his argument. In presenting the argument in this manner, the author appeals to the logical correlation between increased global temperatures and the emotional investment birdwatchers have as a group of individuals regardless of varying political views with a shared passion - birds. Birds, as a focal point, appeal to hobbyists and conservationists alike. Kaufman ensures that the targeted audience is convinced, noting that with the increase in temperature swaths of bird species will no longer exist. This statement implies the correlative and fatal impact of global temperature rise, which is the destruction of entire ecosystems. In presenting these findings in this manner, Kaufman’s tone evokes urgency and concern within the reader and thus further convincing the reader of his claim.

Lee, Bryan. “E-Commerce's Efficiencies May Help Reduce Pollution.” *The Wall Street Journal*, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB944834575190849787?mod=searchresults&page=1&pos=16>

Accessed 31 October 2019.

Lee claimed that the growth in e-commerce led by publicized internet use could save a tremendous amount of energy and reduce pollution. He supports this claim noting that when "the U.S. experienced economic growth of about 4% annually in 1997, and 1998 [the] the nation's energy consumption -- the principal source of air pollution and gases linked to global warming -- hardly grew at all." Information-technology companies' growth supported economic gains without causing more pollution. Lee also argued that the rise in e-commerce allowed for energy-saving deliveries noting that "delivery truck[s] use just 10% of the energy equivalent of [a] consumer's car trip." Instead of going to physical stores, deliveries made directly to where the products are needed reduces energy consumption by up to 90%. Energy savings from the decrease in retail space is another significant impact on energy consumption as "e-commerce could eliminate the need for 1.5 billion square feet of retail space or 5% of the U.S. [in] total." As retailers reduce their physical space, the "resulting energy savings would replace the output of 21 average-size power plants, preventing the release of 35 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions." Lee's use of statistical evidence creates a clear and logical argument for his audience in favor of e-commerce as a viable option to reduce pollution that is associated with consumption. In this sense, it becomes clear that Lee is targeting the everyday consumer who can choose between online shopping or physically going to a retailer's location. The choice becomes apparent as his tone is practical, and his argument convincing - online retailers such as Amazon save space and energy.

Maier, Stephanie. “Op-Ed: Investors are getting closer to a climate change tipping point.” *CNBC,*

<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/10/04/investors-are-getting-closer-to-a-climate-change-tipping-point.html> Accessed 27 October 2019.

As an investor, Stephanie Maier conveys her argument in a manner that is accessible to other business-minded individuals. Maier utilizes the discourse commonly heard in the business world presenting her audience with facts and projections to garner their interest and ensure their attention by highlighting that there is an expected "$23 trillion in global losses . . . with a 4°C rise in global temperatures." In addition, Maier appeals to her audience by noting the current trend in the investment world with "investor shareholder engagement [becoming] mainstream [and in turn] opening up a new front in the drive to decarbonize the global economy." This statement provides a sense of momentum and heightened awareness. Maier ensures her audience is maintaining their relevance in the current economic climate. It also allows her audience to be directly involved in securing the fiduciary health of their companies as they make investments that are successful and productive in the global markets. Maier is worried that climate change will have a significant effect on the world economy. However, rather than be alarmist, she addresses the issue in a hopeful tone as she directs her audience toward a path that will avoid economic crises as long as business strategies are "aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement." Maier's tone is hopeful as she points towards a solution where corporations "bring emissions in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement and improve climate-related financial disclosures all [to] help build stronger, more resilient companies." Her reasoning directly appeals to the logical and emotional sentiments of her audience. Investors want to maintain growth and stability for their companies and therefore ensuring they have a competitive edge in the market is key. Maier provides this path for her audience by aligning it with environmentally-friendly business decisions.

Payne, Daniel. “Don't go vegan to save the planet. You can help by being a better meat-eater.” *USA TODAY,*

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2019/09/21/climate-change-dont-go-vegan-eat-local-meat-raised-well-column/2375664001/> Accessed 27 October 2019.

Daniel Payne's argument is in favor of more environmentally sound ways to eat meat. He argues that this is possible because "consumers now have the option of buying better, cleaner, more humanely raised and less environmentally destructive meat." Payne presents this idea to persuade meat-eaters to choose their meat with their wallets. It is clear that his intended audience is not individuals who are already vegetarian or vegan but rather individuals who consume meat regularly because Payne's tone is one from the standpoint of a meat-eater. He provides facts regarding the health benefits of eating animals. He refers to meat consumption as a part of human evolution. He does so in order to ensure that his stance is not confused with promoting veganism. He solidifies this stance by stating, "Human beings are part of a long meat-eating evolutionary chain stretching back millions of years; our bodies and our physiology have been shaped countless millennia of a meat-rich omnivorous diet." In doing so, he ensures that his targeted audience does not become skeptical of his opinion as he is not trying to make them stop their eating habits. Instead, his argument is for meat eaters to change their spending habits as he uses facts that meat from animals that have lived healthy, happy lives produce better quality meat for consumption. Payne also illustrates the secondary results of eating ethically treated animals, which is the environmental impact, saying, "healthier meat . . . makes for a healthier local environment, which can, over time, lead to a healthier climate." He further persuades his audience by noting that "at a time of growing concern about pending catastrophic climate change, this benefit [healthier meat] can't be overlooked." This connection becomes evident as Payne makes the choice clear - select the more expensive but overall morally and ethically better meat.

Schoonover, Rod. “The White House Blocked My Report on Climate Change and National Security.” *The New York Times,*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/30/opinion/trump-climate-change.html> Accessed 16 October 2019.

Dr. Schoonover, who worked as an intelligence analyst for the federal government, and focused on the impact of environmental and climate change on national security in the U.S., presents an ethical appeal to the reader for his decision to resign from his position. Considering the political climate in which Dr. Schoonover is presenting his argument and the venue in which it is presented, the target audience he is addressing is not individuals on the far political right but rather moderates to more left centered individuals. In order to appeal to this audience, which has a range of opinions and stances with regards to climate change, he highlights his educational background to establish his position as an authority in the realm of scientific inquiry. Dr. Schoonover expresses his admiration as a senior analyst for the Bureau of Intelligence and Research at the State Department by highlighting that it was “home.” He also expresses reverence for the position he once held as it is “the oldest civilian intelligence agency in the government . . .well known for its history of analytic sharpness and courageous dissent.” To ensure that his audience does not suspect his increasing frustrated tone to be connected to a dissident political view, he highlights the “apolitical nature of [his] work.” Dr. Schoonover then uses his position, as a well-versed and dedicated scientist, to fortify his stance with regard to the negative impact climate change has on our national security. Throughout the piece, Dr. Schoonover combines this admiration for the work and the position he once held with concern and frustration with the current administration’s stance which “blocked the submission of [his] bureau’s written testimony on the national security implications of climate change to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.” He elicits sympathy from his readers as he recounts how he was repeatedly not received by the administration because his findings illustrated the negative effects climate change has on national security. In presenting his stance in this manner, Dr. Schoonover makes it clear that his act of resignation is directly due to the outright denial of the facts that his work presented to the current administration due to the fact that “the scientific foundation of the analysis did not comport with the administration’s position on climate change.” It evokes fear in the readers as they realize that despite the best intentions and unbiased manner in which Dr. Schoonover attempted to present his findings to the Trump Administration, there was an outright denial and distrust of the scientifically analysed reports.

Research/Audience Assignment

*There were two overlapped messages ‘I urge you to…’ in the letter, so I removed it and moved the supporting sentence to the end of the letter to deliver the message more effectively. In the op-ed, two claims of danger in Mexico were duplicated in successive paragraphs. I deleted the former claim and moved the assisting evidence to the latter paragraph.*

Trump’s New Asylum Policy

Asylum seekers, especially from Central America’s Northern Triangle which consists of individuals from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, are traveling to the United States in search of a new home but are being detained. These individuals are fleeing severe gang violence, government corruption, and cartel violence in hopes of finding safety for themselves and their family members. Despite making the dangerous journey from their home countries without external assistance, these individuals are being told to wait in Mexico months before having an asylum consideration trail due to a new Trump administration policy called the Migrant Protection Protocols (M.P.P.).

The M.P.P. requires asylum seekers to remain in Mexico for the duration of their legal proceedings, which can last several months. While in Mexico these individuals live in makeshift camps that are unprotected and with slumlike conditions. This new shift in the treatment of asylum seekers has placed these individuals in grave danger as there is no protection from the threats they were fleeing in the first place. This policy has to change as it is attacking the core moral purpose of the United States asylum process.

M.P.P. is a political policy that has a direct impact on the people of the U.S. As immigrants look to the U.S. as a beacon of acceptance and safety, the Trump administration is destroying this promise and eroding the moral integrity of this nation. Therefore, I choose to write a letter to Bloomberg, a presidential candidate, that is basing his democratic ticket on the grounds of morality and social change. It is my hope that engaging Bloomberg will shine a spotlight during the presidential race on the immorality of the M.P.P.. The second genre I will use is an op-ed as it will voice my concerns and share these ideas with like-minded individuals. I would like to submit my article to the New York Times as a contributing voice against Trump’s policy.

Dear Bloomberg,

You have served this country as a politician in one of the most diverse cities in this country. You know the value of that immigrants add to our nation as the United States is known for its patchwork of immigrants that make this country great. Immigrants are one of this country’s greatest strengths, as they have contributed to the prosperity and growth seen in the U.S. today. In addition to being a beacon of diversity, the U.S. has been a leader in granting asylum to people from all over the world as they flee from the dangers and prosecution found in their homelands. With this in mind, the current administration’s stance on asylum seekers is alarming, specifically, when it comes to applicants from the southern border.

Trump’s current asylum policy called the Migrant Protection Protocols (M.P.P.) colloquially known as “Remain in Mexico.” requires asylum seekers from Central America’s Northern Triangle to remain in Mexico for the duration of their legal proceedings, which can last for many months. These people who have fled from their homes in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala due to life-threatening circumstances have been met with this new policy that forces them to wait in Mexican border towns without protection while their paperwork processes.

Many of these vulnerable individuals are placed in towns like Ciudad Juárez, one of the most dangerous cities in the world to await their asylum hearings. Their lives are in constant danger as these towns are filled with kidnappers, thieves, and criminals who take advantage of asylum seekers’ vulnerability.

Another one of the changes made is the metering of asylum seekers which strictly limits the number of individuals who can even apply for asylum. The fact that Trump’s policy significantly decreases the number of applications has created a bottleneck in the initial process.

This policy is the result of extremely biased views from the Trump administration. This nation is built by immigrants and should continue to be a beacon of hope for those who seek refuge. Recently, you announced your decision to run for the presidency under the Democratic ticket for the 2020 election, as a champion for morality and social justice. As a counterpoint to immorality, I urge you to campaign against Trump's policy towards asylum seekers. Fight against this inhumane policy and work with those that are fighting to repeal it.

Sincerely,

Ihn Lee

Op-ed: Immigration Today

Is the Migrant Protection Protocols (M.P.P.) more commonly known as “Remain in Mexico” really the best policy? Should Trump really have a wall, that will cost billions of dollars of taxpayer’s money, “to prevent illegal immigration, drug and human trafficking, and acts of terrorism” as stated by Trump? Professor Michael Dear’s opinion differs from Trump’s in the sense that the wall will not resolve these problems because many illegal immigrants already in the U.S. do not engage in criminal activity and truth be told, drug cartels can and will function delivering their goods with or without a wall. Erecting a wall on the border makes sense if Trump wants to keep asylum seekers in Mexico.

El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala Deadliest Countries World-wide

Asylum seekers, especially from Central America’s Northern Triangle which consists of individuals from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, are traveling to the United States in search of a new home but are being detained. Zolan Kanno-Youngs and Elisabeth Malkin note in their New York Times article that asylum seekers from the Northern Triangle are at record highs with “about 150,000 Salvadorans [becoming] refugees or [seeking] asylum in recent years.” El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala are the deadliest countries in the world. Honduras has the highest murder rate in the world, El Salvador is 5th, and Guatemala is 6th, according to worldatlas.com. This amount of violence puts regular citizens of these three countries in constant peril. It is a logical for individuals to want a better life free from the chaos and they are turning to the U.S. in hopes of salvation from this living hell.

This influx was due to severe violence where in 2017 “there were 10.8 homicides a day in El Salvador.” The number of murders in the U.S. for the same year were 47.4 homicides a day, according to an FBI report. In comparison to the U.S. population which is 51 times larger and with a landmass which is 467 times bigger, El Salvador’s daily average was extremely high. Asylum seekers who came to the U.S. border were so desperate they left behind their homes in search of safety. Their governments which are riddled with corruption could not protect them from gangs, robberies, kidnapping, rape, or torture.

Asylum seekers have risked their lives to arrive to the U.S. Southern borders in search of a reprieve only to be sent back and told to remain in Mexico. Asylum seekers who were forced to stay in Mexico live in Mexican border towns that are extremely dangerous as Mexico has expereinced a rise in the murder rate with 35,964 killed in 2018 and a contintued uptick this year. These migrants have been subject to kidnappings, discrimination, prejudice, and poverty. In addition, to this deterrent, the Trump administration enacted metering as noted by a CBS article by Kate Smith that discussed the shift in for Customs and Border Patrol officers who have processed on average 20 individuals a day in Jan 2019 instead of the 100 individuals a day in that was the past standard. Due to this shift, many migrants have lost hope, get frustrated and return home.

Morality in the United States Asylum Process

The M.P.P. requires asylum seekers to remain in Mexico for the duration of their legal proceedings, which can last several months. One of the reasons why so many asylum seekers are staying at the border for a longer time is the higher denial rate of asylum grants by immigration judges. The denial rate increased from 42.0%, in 2012 during the Obama administration, to 65%, in 2018 during Trump administration, according to a TRAC report. Asylum seekers are therefore forced to wait at the borders towns forming makeshift camps that lack proper sanitation or protection, and as a result, the most vulnerable population, children suffering the most. Kevin Sieff from Washington Post focused his article on the impact this policy has on children. Many fall ill, and their parents lack the ability to acquire the proper medical intervention. As a result, parents have sent their children over the border alone in hopes that their children are found by CBP (Customs and Border Protection) officers because of the fact that unaccompanied minors are not affected by M.P.P. This policy has not only broken these asylum seekers’ hope but it has also destroyed their families.

Despite this very bleak situation, there are ways that we can help those who wait in Mexico for asylum. As there are not many lawyers available in these border towns, we can encourage bar associations to mobilize and volunteer their services to asylum seekers who can greatly benefit from legal aid. We, everyday citizens can show our support by writing letters to Congress for an asylum policy repeal. We can donate items such as clothing or dry goods to organizations that are working with asylum seeking families at border towns. In other words, there is hope for our country to still be a beacon of light for those who seek refuge in her towns. We cannot forget that this nation is built by immigrants.

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Freewriting Exercise/Group Debate

*I was in the group that opposed gentrification. I identified the problems caused by gentrification that my group all agree upon. To support my thinking, I found evidence from studies and articles that enhanced my argument. I learned that in order to ensure that I had a strong argument to present to my opposition, I would have to find sources that bolstered my claims. I learned from the annotated bibliography assignment that I needed to be able to find sources that provided a clear purpose and used sound rhetorical reasoning. This knowledge allowed me to support my group for the debate we had in class.*

Gentrification is bad. It is the displacement of lower income families from an area due to the increased costs of real estate.

1. In a study from the office of the NYC comptroller, it stated that the median rent prices in NYC rose 75% since 2001.
2. Local businesses suffer from large competitors such as Target, Trader Joe’s, and Whole Foods.
3. People of color are criminalized because white people feel threatened by people of color. It leads to increased racial profiling of people of color which leads to proliferation of stereotypes.
4. New developments are profit driven and not community-driven.
5. Children’s education suffers. Children who live in areas of concentrated poverty have lower graduation rates and are exposed to constant violence.

Brainstorming for Research and Audience Assignment

*I really enjoyed this brainstorming exercise. I was able to determine which communities I belong to. I chose to focus on immigrants in the U.S. and considered the ways they arrive to this country. With questions provided during exercise by the professor I was able to choose a venue and a genre. I learned that I must consider affected audiences and their interests to deliver my message effectively. Therefore, I selected the op-ed and a formal letter as my two genres. I decided to select the New York Times as the venue.*

Communities I belong to: immigrants in the US, Asian immigrants, Korean, Brooklyn Bedstuy, Jeonju (my hometown), family, education (K-12, University), school community that my children are in, PTA, Asian&Latino couples or families, parents of ADHD children, and global warming.

Immigrants, permanent residents and undocumented aliens, fear of deportation since many immigrants are deported because of current immigrant policy. This has a negative impact on immigrants in society after Trump was elected.

So what are current conversations, debates, issues about my topic? These should be specific. What audiences are impacted? And what are their stakes? Why do they care? How do you want to reach them? What evidence to use/genre?

Final Reflection

Dear Professor Jewell,

Having taken this course, I have learned a lot about myself as a student. I have been able to reflect on my history in relation to reading and writing. My literacy narrative made me acknowledge my past disconnect with writing. I realized that deep inside of me I wanted to achieve the necessary writing skills and enthusiasm toward writing which was encouraging as I began my studies. There has always been a sense of urgency and pressure when it comes to expressing my ideas through writing. I wanted to express this tension in the opening scene of my literary narrative. I chose to provide this memory of my experience before and during the writing portion for the CAT to embody how I embarked on my undergraduate career at City Tech.

As I rewrote my literacy narrative, I was able to reflect on my journey this Fall semester. I realize that reading has always been a source of comfort and entertainment. During this semester, I learned how reading can also function as a tool to express my thoughts and claims. This is apparent in my free write on gentrification where I was able to search for sources and use other people’s writing to support my argument. Reading the writing of other individuals in this specific task illustrated to me how reading can be a tool to support my thinking.

This class has provided me with various examples of passionate narratives such as “How to Tame a Wild Tongue” where Anzaldua’s experiences as a bilingual person in the U.S. mirrored my own. I realized that I was not alone in this feeling of being uncomfortable and unsure of expressing myself in English. I have experienced the terriorism of silence in the past where the words in English escaped me and I could not voice my opinion. Being able to counter these past memories with the conviction and confidence during the in-class debate was empowering for me.

We have to read to write. I totally agree with ‘You are reading to learn about writing’ in “How to Read Like a Writer” by Mike Bunn. Therefore, I read every reading in the packet for class with the goal to improve my writing. In the middle of the semester I reflected on the packet readings and the course of learning as delineated in the syllabus. The readings guided me in my journey as a writer. I saw how important choosing the right genre was for my Research and Audience assignment. I knew that an op-ed would allow me to provide my audience with the proper structure in order to appeal to the morality of my audience. I was able to provide statistical information in order to strengthen my claim.

Studying a specific genre also empowered me in terms of how I can express my thoughts on the page. I was able to dissect other people’s arguments and this allowed me to learn how writing functioned mechanically. I understood why an author’s tone was serious yet hopeful when presenting a solution to a current problem such as climate change. The use of emotional, logical and ethical appeals to the audience created the most effective and compelling writing. With this in mind, I used morality, compassion, and data to support my writing of why the Trump administration’s stance on asylum is detrimental to the U.S. as well as asylum seekers.

The brainstorming process was very helpful for me to determine which topic I wanted to write about for the Research and Audience Assignment. Taking into consideration the multiple communities that I am a part of and I participate in allowed me to see how I am connected to society. This process gave me a clear direction to align my thoughts as I narrowed my focus on a specific topic. When I revisited my op-ed, I was able to revisit the genre and consider structurally what components I could enhance, such as making sure that my tone expressed concern to my audience. I also reflected on my letter to Bloomberg and questioned if I was able to appeal to his morality. I also considered if I used persuasive language to sway him in favor of my take on M.P.P.

As I revised my work, the reverse outline technique provided me with insight into my writing. I was able to identify the parts of my literacy narrative that were irrelevant such as the focus on my father’s writing. I was then able to examine my piece objectively and take it apart in order to find ways to tie in the other aspects of literacy which are reading, speaking, and listening. I also attempted to emulate a style of writing that was more expressive and poetic as many of the authors I read from the reading packet adhered to form but also strayed for it when giving personal anecdotes. I realize that my revised literacy narrative is more reflective of how reading impacts the writing process and how speaking and listening are a part of literacy. All of my work this semester has guided me to refine my argumentative and analytical skills. I am more reflective about my writing and I feel that this perspective will further develop who I am as a writer and thinker. Thank you for this amazing opportunity to grow in this regard. I have learned and grown tremendously.

Sincerely,

Ihn Lee